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41. (Amended) A method of determining motor oil quality, comprising the steps of:

, determining a viscosity of the motor oil during operation of an internal combustion engine;

determining and evaluating a change of the viscosity of the motor oil determined in the viscosity determining step as a function of a temperature and frictional torque of the engine; and

determining starter torque, the viscosity change determining and evaluating step including the substep of determining the frictional torque in accordance with the starter torque.

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43. (Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein the viscosity change determining and evaluating step includes the substep of determining the frictional torque in accordance with the starter torque and a consumed engine acceleration power.

44. (Amended) A method of determining motor oil quality, comprising the steps of:

determining a viscosity of the motor oil during operation of an internal combustion engine;

determining and evaluating a change of the viscosity of the motor oil determined in the viscosity determining step as a function of a temperature and frictional torque of the engine; and

determining whether the change of the viscosity is outside a range of -15% to +50% of a predefined viscosity value at a same temperature, the viscosity change determining and evaluating step being performed in accordance with the step of determining whether the change of the viscosity is outside the range of -15% to +50% of the predefined viscosity value at the same temperature.

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48. (Amended) A method of determining viscosity of motor oil of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

determining an engine frictional torque; and

determining the viscosity of the motor oil in accordance with the engine frictional torque;

wherein the engine frictional torque is determined in the engine frictional torque determining step in accordance with engine data available in an engine controller; and

wherein the engine data includes:

- an engine torque generated in accordance with at least one of an injection time and a throttle valve position;
- a signal that indicates whether a torque is transmitted to a drive train; and
- at least one signal relating to an operating condition of at least one auxiliary unit driven by the engine.

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49. (Amended) A method of determining viscosity of motor oil of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

determining an engine frictional torque; and
determining the viscosity of the motor oil in accordance with the engine frictional torque;

wherein the engine frictional torque is determined in the engine frictional torque determining step in accordance with engine data available in an engine controller; and

wherein the internal combustion engine is a diesel engine, the engine data including:

- a signal that indicates whether a torque is transmitted to a drive train;
- a load signal of a generator as a measure of an electric power generated by a generator;
- an engine rpm;
- an injected amount of fuel;
- an engine temperature; and
- an ambient temperature.

50. (Amended) A method of determining viscosity of motor oil of an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

determining an engine frictional torque;